

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Chas Vincent, on April 5, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Sen. Pat Connell (R)  
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)  
Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)  
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)

##### **Members Excused:**

Sen. Duane Ankney (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Pat Christian, Committee Secretary  
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SR 43, 3/30/2017; SR 44, 3/28/2017

00:01:12 Chair Vincent turned over Chair responsibilities to Vice Chair Welborn

**HEARING ON SR 43**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:22 Sen. Dick Barrett (D), SD 43, opened the hearing on SR 43, Confirm Governor's appointees for the Board of Water Well Contractors.

00:03:30 Pat Byrne, Board of Water Well Contractors (BWWC)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:05:12 Art Robinson, program manager, Montana Board of Water Well Contractors  
[EXHIBIT\(nas71a01\)](#)

00:08:50 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:10:38 Sen. Fielder  
00:11:18 Mr. Byrne, BWWC  
00:11:27 Sen. Fielder  
00:11:54 Mr. Byrne  
00:12:02 Sen. Fielder  
00:12:23 Sen. Richmond

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:12:59 Sen. Connell

**HEARING ON SR 44**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:14:13 Sen. Pat Connell (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SR 44, Confirm Chief Justice appointment to Water Court.

00:17:18 Sen. Welborn  
00:17:28 Russ McElyea, judge, Montana Water Court  
00:19:47 Doug Ritter, appointee

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:21:20	Sen. Pomnichowski
00:21:43	Mr. Ritter, appointee
00:22:48	Sen. Pomnichowski
00:23:06	Mr. Ritter
00:25:22	Sen. Pomnichowski
00:25:52	Mr. Ritter

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:27:52	Sen. Connell
00:30:30	Chair Welborn

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 3:32 PM

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Pat Christian, Secretary

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**Additional Documents**

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**EXHIBIT([nas71aad.pdf](#))**